

## **Bird Control Project:**

During the summer of 2003, Building 333 reported massive bird droppings being deposited from two trees in front of their building. There were numerous mourning doves that fed on seeds that blew into the solar panel area next to the building. They would perch on the metal fences around the panels, and on the two trees in front of Building 333, on the limbs over the sidewalk. Droppings would cover the sidewalk.



Bldg 333 – Cleveland pear trees



Solar panel area, next to Bldg 333

Several options were considered and ruled out. Machines that broadcast predator calls or ultrasonic annoying sounds were too expensive. Spraying petroleum repellants on trees would harm birds' wing feathers, so the birds would learn by "trial and error." Once their feathers become oily, it makes it difficult to fly. If they can't fly, they can't get food and water, and would be susceptible to predators. Sporadically shooting off a "cannon" or loud noise conflicts with our heightened security level, and may frighten visitors and building inhabitants.

Don Musick at Call Henry, approved the environmentally preferable system of hanging aluminum pie pans that flash in the sun and make noise until the birds find another roosting spot. But this did not dissuade the birds.

With Don's permission, another procedure was attempted: Aluminum foil was wrapped around the limbs hanging over the sidewalk. The foil was "pinched" in areas on top of the branches to discourage perching. Initial results, covering most of the branches, indicate this procedure is working. When spring 2004 comes around, we will wrap the rest of the branches and see if we can declare complete success.



Mourning Dove